

## RIVAL WAYS TO MEET THE PROBLEM OF TRUSTS

Samuel Untermyer and Morris Hillquit in Joint Debate

### STATE OWNERSHIP ISSUE

Hillquit Is for It While His Rival Regards It as Ridiculous.

Socialists clamored Carnegie Hall last night to hear Morris Hillquit defend socialism in a debate on trusts with Samuel Untermyer, the lawyer. The debate was under the auspices of the International Socialist Society. Hillquit took the affirmative of the question: "Resolved, That government ownership of trusts is the best solution of the trust problem." He spoke first.

Mr. Hillquit took up half of his opening speech with a narrative of the growth of trusts, bringing forward the familiar arguments against them. He said that the effect of trusts is upon the people, and that we cannot go back to the time when he spoke of Senator Newlands' call which provided for the regulation of such trusts as were in the place themselves within Government power.

Mr. Hillquit quoted Senator Newlands as saying:

"I made the full optional because I feared that if it was made imperative the great organizations would delay or prevent its passage."

And then he quoted a lawyer as responding, "I guess they would." This lawyer was Samuel Untermyer.

Mr. Hillquit, speaking of the attempts to break up the Standard Oil Company and the American Sugar Company, said that they were futile. Nobody could see that prices had gone down nor could anybody see any competition between the two companies. He said that the stock of both corporations had increased in value.

As for regulation, he said that it wouldn't work either. He added:

"The Government will manage the industries, direct the production and the accounting of the trusts and leave to the owners practically nothing but the task of collecting their profits. There is no escape from this conclusion. Government regulation means the complete ownership of the entire production and distribution, in which case it comes dangerously near to the dreaded plan of 'socialization,' or it may fall short of this programme, in which case it will fail of its purpose."

Furthermore, regulation would not correct antagonism between worker and owner and it would help the play of bad politics. He said:

"Under a system of Government regulation every trust will be deeply vitally concerned in the laws governing such regulation and in the personnel of the regulators. They will retain their private wealth and hence their power to corrupt the Government, and they will have a tremendously large motive for exerting it. It will not be the Government that will regulate the trusts, it will be the trusts that will regulate the Government."

Government ownership, on the other hand, would mean that trusts would be operated for the advantage of all, the owners being able to own as much as they would like to own, but not to corrupt practices in politics and there would be no more stock gambling and no more abnormally high prices and no more paupers.

When Mr. Untermyer arose with his typewritten speech he was visibly affected by the apparent hostility of his audience. At the outset of his speech Mr. Untermyer remarked that one can hardly say what a man means nowadays when he speaks of a "trust." Is it a complete monopoly, a virtual monopoly or simply a combination of a number of companies in a given department of industry? Mr. Untermyer leaned to the last idea, that a trust is commonly understood to be made up of a certain number of companies in a specified kind of business. The Steel Corporation is a type of this last species of trust. Then Mr. Untermyer put these questions:

"If the Government takes over the United States Steel Corporation is it proposed that it shall acquire and thereafter conduct that industry in competition with existing independent steel plants? Or does the proposition contemplate that because one-half of an industry is taken over by the Government the result of consolidation the Government shall acquire not only that one-half, but also the competing industries?"

He declared that the Socialists had not worked out a definite programme by which either of these undertakings could be accomplished. Regulation of trusts by the Government as compared with securing of Government ownership, even provides constitutional impediments were taken care of, would be child's play.

He then asked if Government ownership and operation could be conducted in competition with private concerns. He went on to assume the plan involves a civil service similar to that now prevailing. Without it we should of course have pandemonium from the beginning. Each new administration would be accompanied by an upheaval that would be destructive of all business. No industry could withstand the political broilers against which it would be hurled.

On the other hand we have a civil service where every man settles back in the security of his position and will destroy all incentive for ambition and initiative and will soon have a paralyzed industry.

He compared Government railroads abroad with privately owned roads here from the standpoint of efficiency, economy and pay of employees, unfavorably to Government ownership. He treated telephone and telegraph lines the same way. He compared the cost of battleships, which he declared to be one of the few departments in which the Government has control, efficient executives, constructed in Government yards, to the cost of battleships built by private corporations. The Government-owned ships, aimed to be identical with those built in private yards, cost 20 per cent. more.

Speaking of the possibility of Government ownership of railroads, he said:

"If the Government acquired our railroads it would presumably have to pay for them by some sort of interest-bearing obligation, on the unwarranted assumption that they were always as prosperous as they are today could the Government get this money on any basis of lost interest than is now being paid."

The return on invested capital is about 2 per cent, while 75 per cent of the total annual revenue has been distributed to the labor incident to the operation of the properties in one form or another, while the return by way of dividends and interest has been less than 25 per cent of the operating revenue. How much better distribution of the revenues of this industry could be expected under any other system?

Mr. Untermyer went on to consider Government monopoly, declaring that it would result in the decline of this country as an industrial nation. The productivity of the time when the United States produced all its goods for itself means that we must depend upon manufacturers for our return from foreign markets.

Government monopoly, if it wages war to the hilt against the selfishness of the competitive system, and hence less incentive would tend toward higher and more complete production, it would not be able to compete with the rest of the world in manufactures.

But as they stand, he declared, are not a serious menace, for they are subject to regulation. He proposed an individual

commission, similar to the Interstate Commerce Commission, which should have power to license corporations and proceed against them in case they offend the law. Charter regulations should be uniform. The commission should have control of dissolved and disintegrated corporations. Price agreements between competitors should be subject to review by the commission. He advised the passage of Senator La Follette's bill enumerating unfair and oppressive business practices.

### SHOT BY A SORE GANGSTER.

Ginsberg May Die—Jack Gallagher Had Been Slashed.

Louis Ginsberg, 19 years old, an elevator operator at 712 Broadway, with a home at 111 Madison street, whom the police say they do not know as a "gangster," was passing the corner of Eleventh street and Third avenue early last evening when another young man appeared from behind a car, dodged in front of a truck, rushed up to Ginsberg and pressed a revolver against his left breast. Ginsberg fell with a bullet about two inches below his heart and his assailant walked away.

Max Moskowsky of 1079 Kelly street, The Bronx, and Jacob Rothermann of 355 Sackman street, Brooklyn, saw him go up to the area of the Children's court and throw his gun in there, after which he started across Eleventh street.

Bathernan took after him on a run yelling murder. The fugitive at once started on a run himself, reached Fourth avenue with a good lead and darted north. He ran into the arms of Policeman Thompson at Thirtieth street and it became known soon afterwards that perhaps Jack Gallagher, who is a gangster, a rough and tumble fighter with a long record of assaults, had made a little mistake.

There was not much trouble for any one to remember Gallagher last night, even if he were as badly injured as young Ginsberg. His face was crisscrossed with adhesive plaster and pretty well bound up with bandages. It is because of this it is thought that Gallagher was on the warpath.

A policeman found Gallagher, who has been arrested more times than anybody can remember for fighting around Fourth avenue, was brought around to him yesterday morning looking as if he had tried to fight an old fashioned harrow. His face was slashed almost to ribbons by a razor. Gallagher did not care to give away his name but he had been in a "chop" since yesterday and a dark haired guy looking like a dago had closed an argument with a razor. Gallagher did not care to give a more definite description of his assailant, intimating that he would attend to the matter of punishment himself.

Young Ginsberg was picked up and taken dying to St. Mark's Hospital over in Second avenue by an automobilist who was pressed into service by a policeman. Gallagher was brought around to him before he started and Ginsberg had no difficulty in identifying him. "He's got me wrong," Gallagher declared, but the police noticed, however, that Ginsberg is swarthy and does look like an Italian.

Ginsberg is locked up at the hospital. It is said that the odds are greatly against Ginsberg living.

### BENZ MAY GET 20 YEARS.

Killed His Stepdaughter in Trying to Shoot His Wife.

The Jury in the Supreme Court, Long Island City, last night brought in a verdict of manslaughter in the first degree against George Benz, who had been on trial for several days for killing his four-year-old stepdaughter, Bertha Rein, who was about 50 years old and a salesman, was a widower when he married Mrs. Rein. Both had children by their former marriage.

There were disagreements and a separation, after which Mrs. Benz went to 14 Gates avenue, Brooklyn. She and her daughter Bertha went to a party at 2 o'clock in the morning to find Benz waiting for them. He tried to induce Bertha to return to him, and after her refusal, drew his revolver. The girl jumped in front of her mother and Benz shot and killed her. The extreme penalty under the conviction is twenty years imprisonment.

### BILL TO AUTHORIZE BONDS.

Boston, April 27.—An act to authorize the issue of bonds or notes by the Boston and Providence Railroad, not to exceed \$5,000,000, payable in periods not exceeding seventy-five years, to provide for the construction of its line, the construction of additional tracks and the elimination of grade crossings, was reported by the committee on railroads, the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad is to guarantee the interest and principal.

There will be a benefit for the Titanic sufferers at the Hippodrome to-night. Among those who will appear are Lewis Waller, James F. Powers, De Voix Hopper, Eugene Cowles, George M. Cohan, Emmy Whelan, Marie Dressler, Christine Nelson, Lew Fields, Joe Weber and Jessie Clayton.

Amy Bussert, who has just closed her season as Angeline in "The Rose of Panama," has been engaged to perform with Bella Alvin in the role of Mabel Martin in the revival of "Robin Hood."

Frank Reicher, who is performing the French vaudeville "The Pigeon" at the Little Theatre, has signed a contract with Winthrop Ames for next year and will star in a new production. On Sunday, May 12, he will talk about the new theatre at the Church of St. Mark's. He is on invitation of the pastor, the Rev. Dr. William Norman Guthrie.

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### A NEW SINGER.

Greta Torpade in Operetta at the Plaza.

A new singer in operetta is Greta Torpade, who has been heard several times during the past winter in private performances, and came nearer to the general public last week when she sang in the roccoco operetta, "La Laitiere de la Trianon," at the Hotel Plaza. This is a delightful lyric episode, in which the young actress is called upon in her adventures with a marquis who might just as readily as she have stepped out of a painting by Watteau to assume the dress of a dairy maid as well as her own gowns of the period. Miss Torpade, who comes of a musical family—her father, the tenor Theodor Bjorksten and her mother is a well known teacher of singing—is an altogether delightful apparition in her twentieth century costume. Her acting, while still simple in the symbols she employs, is full of girlish charm and the allurement of youth.

Miss Torpade's task on the musical side is more difficult, since there are some moments of the score that require considerable ingenuity. She conquers these with a facility that proves her admirable schooling. Her voice is agreeable in quality, with a certain brilliancy in some of its upper tones which is well displayed in such music. Some day doubtless Miss Torpade will appear to a wider public than she has so far attempted to reach. With such talent and youthfulness she can afford to take her time in starting the climb to fame. In the meantime, her appearance in "La Laitiere de la Trianon" is a charming feature of a dainty work.

### SPARKS CAUSE \$75,000 FIRE.

Freight Cars, Hotel and Business Houses Destroyed.

ELMHURST, N. Y., April 27.—Sparks from a locomotive late this afternoon set fire to dry lumber in Lockwood's coal and wood yard at Wellburg, five miles east of Elmhurst. The flames consumed several freight cars, Baldwin's hotel and a score of business places and dwellings. The loss is \$75,000.

### SOCIETY FLOCKS TO TUXEDO.

Wedding and Fine Weather Take Crowd to Resort.

TUXEDO PARK, N. Y., April 27.—The Reamans-Andrews wedding, together with ideal weather, brought out a large gathering of society folk to Tuxedo for Sunday. The backwardness of the weather has compelled many to postpone coming out until later to enjoy their villas. However, quite a number of motorists came out and lunched at the club.

Mrs. French Vanderbilt of Newport spent the week with her brother, Amos Tuck, at Tuxedo. Mrs. F. O. Spedden, Mrs. Hewitt opened her villa for a few days.

Mrs. and Mr. J. M. Rutherford, who were cruising in the South on their motor yacht, and Mrs. L. B. Lewis, who were at the Springs, Va., have returned. Other expected cottage arrivals this week will include Mr. and Mrs. W. M. V. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Julliard, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Spedden, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Randolph, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moore, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Anderson, Henry Lee Cobb and Alfred B. Conkling.

Among the late arrivals were Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Earle Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Winslow, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Green, C. D. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. John Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. Howard von Sander, F. D. Winslow, George Washington Ed. and Mrs. F. Kurtz, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Randolph, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moore, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Anderson, Henry Lee Cobb and Alfred B. Conkling.

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## STONE HEARS ELEVATED MAY HAVE BIG WRECK

Discharged Employee Tells Him Old Signal System Is Dangerous.

### THINKS HEDLEY IS AN OGRE

"Fewness of Accidents Best Proof of Safety," General Manager Retorts.

Grand Chief Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers gave out yesterday what he called a report on charges and complaints as to the conditions under which the employees of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company are supposed to work, which Stone said have been investigated and verified by experts sent out by him. Most of the statements are on the evidence of P. McNulty of 188 Alexander avenue, a discharged motorman.

Stone says that motormen are discharged for talking to discharged employees as well as for belonging to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He also says that men are "quietly coerced" into joining the Relief Association established by the Interborough for its employees, though its casual appearance and character are that of a voluntary association. He insists that the men joining it are forced to sign away their rights to damages from the company in the event of injury or death; that discharged men have lost the right to the insurance for which they have paid and that the cost of the death benefits is more than would be charged by a regular New York insurance company.

Stone says that McNulty in his report charged that the system of signals on the elevated railroads is antiquated, the signals being worked by hand, and that the electric block system is unknown on these lines.

"For the last two months," the report says, "Mr. Hedley has for various reasons been discharging some of the best and most experienced men in the service for various reasons, supplanting them with less experienced motormen, who are foreigners and were formerly guards and conductors. With less than two years experience with the Interborough, these men are being given charge of heavily loaded trains carrying anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 people."

Stone quotes McNulty as saying that the signals on the elevated have not been improved since 1875 and that at the Harlem River drawbridge a man can run by the signal and into the river, there being no derailer. On some foggy morning, McNulty predicts, New York will witness a disaster "more terrible than the Titanic tragedy."

Alleged orders by General Manager Hedley of the Interborough are detailed in the report, and McNulty says they are calculated to keep a man's mind off his work. One of these is that a man must not speak to his fellow workman, but must consult his superiors if there are any questions to ask. Another alleged order is that under no circumstances is an employee to speak to a discharged man or ask him to his house, and if the discharged man comes without an invitation the employee must find out his name and object and make a written report or face discharge himself.

Stone says McNulty was discharged for inviting to a birthday party a friend who was a discharged employee. A long conversation is given in McNulty's report, ending in the representative of Mr. Hedley saying, according to McNulty:

"I'm going to give you a tip as to what Mr. Hedley intends to do. He doesn't care whether you belong to the Brotherhood or not; he is going to weed you all out, all of you who have been steam engineers. You are all booked to go."

Mr. Hedley read the Stone-McNulty statement yesterday and said it was a tissue of misrepresentation.

"As to the rules of the voluntary relief association any one can have a copy of them," he said. "It is one of the best institutions of its kind in the United States. This statement is not so much a kick against the company as an attack on Hedley. Under the rules of the association if a man is sick he gets a sick benefit until he is well, no matter how long he may remain sick, or until his death if he does not recover, and the operating expenses are paid by the company, which guarantees the fund."

"I do not remember the case of McNulty, but you can surely tell that he was not discharged for inviting a friend to a birthday party. It is utterly untrue that men are

discharged for belonging to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. We have men whom we know to be brotherhood men and they are sure of their jobs as long as they do their duty and are loyal to the company."

"The complaints and charges are ridiculous from beginning to end and consist of misrepresentations and distortions of facts. If men are mischief makers they are discharged. We don't want agitators, and the employees as a body don't want them. The fact that there have been so few accidents on the system is the best proof of safety."

"Men are not required to make a report if union agitators or discharged men come to them, but they sometimes report matters of this kind of their own accord, as they do not want to be followed around by union agitators."

"The entire statement is too preposterous to be considered seriously."

### THE FRENCH OPERA SINGERS.

Their Season Concludes With Performances of "Carmen" and "Lucia." The brief season of the New Orleans French Opera Company at the Lyric Theatre came to an end last evening when "Lucia" was offered for the detection of an audience of fair size. Mme. Korsoff, who had already officiated as *Micela* at the afternoon performance, sustained the florid burden of the title